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A MOTION approving the report and criteria for the location of regional voting centers and ballot drop locations submitted by the county executive in response to motion 12299 and ordinance 15652 outlining plans for the transition to conducting all elections by mail in King County.

..Body

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Washington state legislature amended Title 29A RCW to allow counties the option of conducting all elections by mail, and

WHEREAS, the number of King County voters who vote by absentee ballot currently fluctuates between approximately seventy and eighty percent in any given election, and

WHEREAS, sixty-two percent of all registered voters in King County are currently registered to automatically vote by absentee ballot, and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2005 King County Executive Ron Sims announced his desire to adopt an all mail voting system in King County, and

WHEREAS, the council of King County on June 19, 2006 passed ordinance 15523 authorizing the director of the records, elections and licensing services division to conduct all elections entirely by mail ballot in accordance with state laws beginning in 2007 or 2008 as determined by the director if certain conditions are met, and

WHEREAS, conducting all elections in King County by mail will allow the county to focus resources and systems to gain efficiencies and increase security by limiting dependency on human interaction and ballot handling, and

WHEREAS, the council of King County on November 20, 2006 adopted ordinance no. 15652, which included a budget proviso requesting a plan and schedule for the transition to vote by mail and information regarding regional voting centers and ballot drop boxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

The report and plans provisoed in Ordinance No. 15652, section 28, p3 (1) and (3), submitted by the county executive are hereby approved. A consulting group composed of representatives from each of the following groups: Two representatives from King County elections, the citizens elections' oversight committee, and the metropolitan King County council staff; and one representative from the elections disability advisory committee and the Voting Rights Act section 203 community coalition. The consulting group will submit to the King County Council proposed locations for regional voting centers and ballot drop locations no later than July 27, 2007. The consulting group shall be chaired by the King County Elections staff member and seek the advice and feedback of the King County Elections Disability Advisory Committee in accordance with RCW 29A.46.260.

Attachments: A. Vote-by-Mail Transition Report